

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

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R 111000Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7845

USDOC WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OR 2 SOFIA 0541

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIB-10

SUBJECT: SECRETARY DENT'S VISIT - BULGARIA

COMMERCE FOR TABOR/LITTIN FROM HUFFCUT

THE FOLLOWING IS THE EXCHANGE OF SPEECHES BETWEEN
MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE NEDEV AND U.S.
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FREDERICK B. DENT AT A DINNER
HOSTED IN HONOR OF SECRETARY AND MRS. DENT AND U.S.
DELEGATION, SOFIA BULGARIA, APRIL 10, 1974.

"I WOULD LIKE ONCE AGAIN TO WELCOME YOU IN
BULGARIA AND TO WISH YOU, MRS. DENT AND THE ACCOMPANYING
PARTY A PLEASANT AND SUCCESSFUL STAY WITH US.

"WE CONSIDER YOUR VISIT IN BULGARIA AS AN IMPORTANT
EVENT NOT ONLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRADE AND
ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, EVEN MORE,
IT IS A TOKEN OF THE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF BULGARIAN-
U.S. RELATIONS THAT HAS TAKEN PLACE.

"THE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS
IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE BROADER POSITIVE TRENDS

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WHICH CHARACTERIZE THE IMPROVEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL

SITUATION IN THE LAST 2-3 YEARS. A PARTICULAR PLACE AMONG THEM IS TAKEN BY NORMALIZATION AND FAVORABLE EVOLUTION OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MOST POWERFUL STATE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD--THE SOVIET UNION AND THE USA, TO WHICH A STRONG IMPETUS WAS GIVEN IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF USSR LEONID BREJNEV IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON IN THE SOVIET UNION.

"OUR GOVERNMENT ENTIRELY SUPPORTS AND WELCOMES THIS IMPROVEMENT OF THE SOVIET-US RELATIONS, BECAUSE WE UNDERSTAND WELL THE IMPORTANCE IT HAS FOR THE OVERALL POSITION AND PROSPECTS OF RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, FOR CONSOLIDATION OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION, FOR STRENGTHENING WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY.

"THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA FOR 30 YEARS NOW HAS PURSUED A STEADY POLICY IN FAVOR OF PEACEFUL AND MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS COOPERATION BETWEEN STATES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS. THAT IS WHY WE WELCOME THE EMERGING TRENDS FOR CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, IN PARTICULAR IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND ECONOMY.

"A GOOD DEAL OF WORK HAS BEEN DONE LATELY. USEFUL CONTACTS WERE ESTABLISHED ON A GOVERNMENT LEVEL, BUSINESS RELATIONS WERE SUBSTANTIALLY INTENSIFIED BETWEEN OUR MINISTRIES, ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS AND THE AMERICAN BUSINESS CIRCLES. OUR COUNTRY WAS VISITED BY NUMEROUS REPRESENTATIVES OF LARGE US CORPORATIONS, BANKS AND COMPANIES IN THE LAST MONTHS. ON THEIR TURN REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR ECONOMIC AND FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS VISITED THE UNITED STATES AND MADE VERY USEFUL CONTACTS. THE FIRST CONTRACTS FOR INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION WERE SIGNED, AND SERIOUS POSSIBILITIES EMERGE FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL JOINT ACTIVITIES IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANY BRANCHES OF ECONOMY.

"THESE FIRST ENCOURAGING RESULTS WILL STIMULATE US ON THE WAY TO A MORE PURPOSEFUL ACTIVITY IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT IN THIS FIELD WE ARE ALMOST 30 YEARS LATE--A PERIOD IN WHICH THE ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES WERE AT A LEVEL FAR BEHIND

THE REAL POSSIBILITIES NOT ONLY OF THE AMERICAN BUT
ALSO OF THE DYNAMICALLY DEVELOPING BULGARIAN ECONOMY.

"OVERCOMING THIS DELAY WE ARE FACILITATED BY
THE POSSIBILITY TO APPLY, ON A LARGE SCALE, THE NEW
FORMS OF A LONG-TERM INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL COOP-
ERATION, WHICH ARE ROOTED IN THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF
THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

"RELYING ON THE SUBSTANTIAL ACHIEVEMENTS IN
THE COURSE OF OUR DEVELOPMENT SO FAR, OUR COUNTRY HAS
THE AMBITIOUS TARGET IN THE NOT VERY DISTANT FUTURE
TO REACH THE SAME LEVEL OF SOCIAL LABOR EFFICIENCY,
OF INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES AND PRODUCTION QUALITY,
AS THAT OF THE MOST ADVANCED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.
THE REALIZATION OF THIS OBJECTIVE IS CLOSELY CONNECTED
WITH THE FURTHER PARTICIPATION OF THE P.R. OF BULGARIA
IN THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR DIVISION, BY WAY OF INTE-
GRATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE OTHER SOCIALIST
COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THROUGH A MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS
TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER DEVELOPED
AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT
IS WILLING TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE EXPANSION
OF SUCH COOPERATION, INCLUDING COOPERATION WITH
AMERICAN FIRMS AND CORPORATIONS.

"WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT
OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, WE ARE FAR FROM THE
IDEA THAT IN THIS RESPECT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS AND

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DIFFICULTIES. YOU ARE WELL AWARE OF THESE PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES, MR. SECRETARY, SO I WOULDN'T DISCUSS THEM BY AND LARGE. IT WOULD SUFFICE TO SAY THAT I HAVE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST YOUR STATEMENT BEFORE THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE REGARDING THE TRADE REFORM BILL, NOW UNDER DISCUSSION, WHICH CLEARLY SPEAKS OF THE REALISTIC APPROACH ON THE PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION YOU REPRESENT. IT SEEMS THAT BOTH SIDES ARE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT WITHOUT OVERCOMING THE PROBLEMS IN QUESTION IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FULLY UTILIZE THE LARGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A FURTHER EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS ON A BALANCED AND MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS BASIS.

"IN CONCLUSION I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE MY GLASS TO THE HEALTH OF MRS. AND MR. DENT, TO THE HEALTH OF OUR AMERICAN GUESTS, TO THE CONSTRUCTIVE DEVELOPMENT OR RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA AND THE UNITED STATES."

SECRETARY DENT'S RESPONSE:

1. MR. MINISTER, MRS. NEDEV, PROFESSOR AND MRS. POPOV. ON BEHALF OF MY COLLEAGUES FROM THE UNITED STATES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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I WANT TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION FOR THE WARM HOSPITALITY, WONDERFUL WEATHER, AND FINE PARTY WHICH YOU HAVE SO GENEROUSLY ARRANGED FOR OUR ARRIVAL HERE. IT IS AN OCCASION THAT WE WILL LONG REMEMBER WITH GREAT PRIDE AND PLEASURE.

2. WE COME HERE AT THE DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO FOLLOW UP THE INITIATIVE TO WHICH YOU REFERRED, LEAD BY HIMSELF AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV TO CREATE A MORE FREE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ALL OF THE PEOPLES OF THIS WORLD. PRESIDENT NIXON BELIEVES THAT COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD CONTRIBUTE SUBSTANTIALLY TO UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE PEOPLE WHICH WILL NOT ONLY ENHANCE THEIR HAPPINESS, BUT ALSO THEIR GENERAL STANDARD OF LIVING.

3. WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE THIS ASSIGNMENT AND FOUND THAT OUR MEETINGS THIS AFTERNOON REFLECT AN EQUAL COMMITMENT ON THE PART OF THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT TO ACHIEVE THESE SAME

ENDS.

4. ACCORDING TO THE OLD SAYING, "WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY". CONSEQUENTLY, WE LOOK FORWARD TO GROWING TRADING VOLUME BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE YEARS AHEAD. I MIGHT OBSERVE THAT IT WAS 1963 THAT THE LAST UNITED STATES CABINET OFFICER VISITED THIS COUNTRY AND I WANT TO ASSURE YOU IT IS OUR HOPE THAT SUCH A LONG TIME WILL NOT ELAPSE BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEXT VISIT, DUE TO A GROWING MUTUALITY OF INTEREST BETWEEN YOUR PEOPLE AND OUR PEOPLE.

5. I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST NOW OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE BEEN SO WARM AND FREINDLY TOWARD US TODAY AND ALSO GROWING UNITED STATES-BULGARIAN TRADE FIGURES IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

NOTE-FOR INFORMATION-LAST CABINET OFFICER TO VISIT BULGARIA WAS SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ORVILLE FREEMAN IN 1963.

THE DINNER WAS PRECEDED BY TALKS BETWEEN SECRETARY DENT AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE IVAN NEDEV, VISIT TO THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PROF. IVAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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